

1 Corinthians 15:1-28 – Why the Resurrection must be True

Getting started: Have you ever puzzled over the details of the resurrection of Jesus? What questions come to your mind?

Read vv. 1-11 Facts of the Resurrection

1. What is essential to hold in order to be saved? (vv. 1-2). What are the critical components of the NT gospel? (vv. 3-4) Name Paul's relationship(s) to the gospel.
2. List the names of people or groups who saw Jesus following His resurrection. Why does this matter? (vv. 5-8)
3. Why does Paul call himself the least of the apostles (v. 9)? Who or what does he credit with his ability to labor as an apostle? (vv. 9-11) What proof did he have of the success of his ministry?

Read vv. 12-19 Importance of the Resurrection

4. What does Paul's question in verse 12 suggest some in Corinth were denying? What logical problems did these deniers face? (v. 13-16)
5. Without Christ's resurrection, what happens to faith (v. 17)? What happens to sin? What happens to Christians who are already deceased? (v. 18) What about the Christians who are yet alive? (v. 19)

Read vv. 20-28 Order of the Resurrections

6. What position does Christ hold with regard to the resurrection? (v. 20) How can that be so, if there were other resurrections before Him (e.g. widow of Zarephath's son, Lazarus, etc.)?
7. To what man does Paul link Christ for sake of comparison? Make a simple chart showing what the man does and the contrasting actions of Christ? (vv. 21-22)
8. What does the term "firstfruits" assure us about the others who hope in resurrection? (v. 23) When do the other resurrections take place? (c.f. Rev. 20:5-6)
9. What position will Christ hold in the end of the age? (vv. 24-25). What does that mean for His enemies? How can, how will Christ destroy the last enemy? (v. 26, Rev. 20:14)
10. How will Christ bring the whole world into submission under God? (Rev. 19:15) Explain how or why Christ will be made subject to God? What does this tell us about the trinity? (v. 28)